

**Topic:** Festivals in Hong Kong

**Language items:**

- Use ‘-ed’ adjectives to describe feelings
- Use ‘-ing’ adjectives to describe people and things
- Use relative pronouns ‘which’, ‘where’ and ‘who’ to specify things, places or people

Read the passage and answer the questions.

I love Christmas. It is an amazing time of the year. It is a major festival and holiday, which is celebrated by billions of people all over the world. For Christians, it is a religious occasion to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, who was born in Bethlehem over two thousand years ago. For non-Christians, it is an exciting time when they have fun with family and friends.

The word ‘Christmas’ comes from Christ. For many centuries, Christmas was simply a religious occasion. In fact more people go to church at Christmas than at any other time of the year. At church they sing Christmas carols, which were composed hundreds of years ago.

Perhaps it is hard to imagine now, but at the beginning of the nineteenth century, Christmas was hardly celebrated. Many of the Christmas traditions that we know today only started at the end of the century. They have little to do with Jesus, and Christmas is a non-religious holiday for many people.

I would like to tell you some of the Christmas traditions now. Everyone knows Santa Claus. It was said that he arrived at houses on a sleigh pulled by reindeer and climbed down the chimneys to the living rooms where the children left stockings to be filled with presents. His character comes from a loving person, St Nicholas, who was very kind to poor people.

The first Christmas card appeared in London in 1843. Simple greetings were printed. People found this a convenient way to contact people that they had not seen during the year and the custom became more and more popular. With the increasing use of computers, some people choose to send their holiday wishes through e-mails. But many people, like me, still like to handwrite their blessings and send them to their family and friends at Christmas.

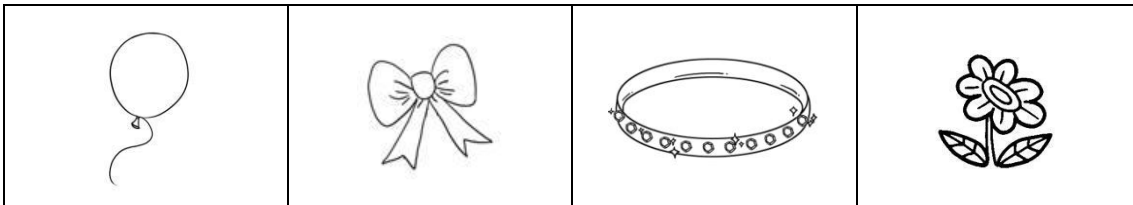
Around 1500, a German priest, Martin Luther, began the tradition of decorating trees to celebrate Christmas. He attached lighted candles to a small evergreen tree to try to make it look like the heaven and stars at night. Today people celebrate Christmas by decorating their trees, real or artificial, with various types of lights, ribbons, flowers, bells and ornaments.

To me, Christmas is all the things above. It is the time of year when I am never bored.

**Questions:**

Circle the correct answers.

1. Which sentence is NOT true about Christmas?
  - A. It is celebrated by a lot of people all over the world.
  - B. Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas.
  - C. People can have fun with their friends.
  - D. All people go to church at Christmas.
2. When did many Christmas traditions start?
  - A. over two thousand years ago
  - B. at the beginning of the nineteenth century
  - C. at the end of the nineteenth century
  - D. in 1843
3. What did Santa Claus do?
  - A. He helped poor people.
  - B. He gave presents to children.
  - C. He cleaned the chimneys.
  - D. He helped the reindeer.
4. As described in the passage, how can people send their blessings to their family and friends now? (You can choose more than one answer.)
  - A. They send them Christmas cards.
  - B. They send them e-mails.
  - C. They contact them through social networking sites.
  - D. They give their friends cards when they see them.
5. Which of the following do people use to decorate Christmas trees? (You can choose more than one answer.)



A.

B.

C.

D.